

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An image printing system formed by connecting, through a network, a plurality of image printing apparatuses, each having image reading means for reading an  
5 image from an original to obtain image data, image printing means for printing an image on a sheet on the basis of the image data, and first image processing means for performing image processing for the image data, and an information processing apparatus having second image processing means  
10 for performing image processing for the image data,

wherein said image printing apparatus further comprises apparatus ID storage means for storing an apparatus ID which specifies said image printing apparatus, and first image data transmission means for transmitting,  
15 to said information processing apparatus, image data to be output, an apparatus ID stored in said apparatus ID storage means, and a transfer destination address which is an address of a remote image printing apparatus to which the image data is to be transferred,

20 said information processing apparatus further comprises first image data reception means for receiving image data, an apparatus ID, and a transfer destination address from said first image data transmission means, and second image data transmission means for transmitting the  
25 image data received by said first image data reception means and the apparatus ID to the transfer destination address received by said first image data reception means,

and

said image printing apparatus further comprises external data output limitation setting means for setting a limitation associated with image printing of image data which is transferred from an apparatus as a transfer source other than said image printing apparatus, second image data reception means for receiving image data and an apparatus ID from said second image data transmission means in said information processing apparatus, and control means for determining whether or not the apparatus ID received by said second image data reception means coincides with an apparatus ID stored in said apparatus ID storage means, and when the apparatus IDs do not coincide with each other, causing said image printing means to print an image based on the image data received by said second image data reception means on the basis of a limitation set by said external data output limitation setting means.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein said external data output limitation setting means can set at least two kinds of settings including "always permitting output operation" and "always inhibiting output operation".

3. A system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said external data output limitation setting means comprises limit value setting means which can set at least "limit addition" and sets a limit value of the "limit addition", and

said control means permits output operation until an

output print count reaches the limit value set by said limit value setting means, and inhibits output operation when the output print count reaches the limit value.

4. A system according to any one of claims 1 to 3,  
5 wherein

said image printing apparatus further comprises user authentication means for authenticating a user as an operator and user-specific output limitation setting means for setting an output limitation for each user,

10 said first image data transmission means transmits, to said information processing apparatus, also user information of a user who has operated output operation for image data transmitted by said first image data transmission means,

15 said first image data reception means also receives the user information from said first image data transmission means,

said second image data transmission means also transmits the user information received by said first image  
20 data reception means to the transfer destination address received by said first image data reception means,

said second image data reception means receives the user information from said second image data transmission means, and

25 said control means determines whether or not the apparatus ID received by said second image data reception means coincides with an apparatus ID stored in said

apparatus ID storage means, and when the apparatus IDs coincide with each other, performs control to make said image printing means print an image based on the image data received by said second image data reception means on the basis of the limitation set by said user-specific output limitation setting means.

5. A system according to claim 4, wherein the control performed by said control means with respect to an output limitation when the apparatus ID received by said second image data reception means coincides with the apparatus ID stored in said apparatus ID storage means is the same as control on an output limitation which is performed when an image based on image data is to be printed in said image printing apparatus without the mediacy of said information processing means.

6. A system according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein when said control means rejects image printing based on the image data received by said second image data reception means, said control means notifies a user who has operated output operation for the image data of corresponding information.

7. A system according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein when said control means rejects image printing based on the image data received by said second image data reception means, said control means notifies an administrator of corresponding information.

8. A system according to claim 6 or 7, wherein said

control means performs the notification by e-mail.

9. A system according to any one of claims 1 to 8,  
wherein when said control means rejects image printing  
based on the image data received by said second image data  
5 reception means, said control means notifies an image  
printing apparatus as a transmission source of the image  
data of corresponding information, and said image printing  
apparatus further comprises display means for displaying  
information indicating reception of the notification.